

Message Text

SECRET

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17

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
----- 005000

O 031135Z FEB 75
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3711
INFO AMEMBASSY MUSCAT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T AMMAN 0824

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, MOPS, JO, MU
SUBJ: HAWKER HUNTERS

1. KING INFORMED AMBASSADOR FEBRUARY 3 THAT JORDAN HAD FINALLY RID ITSELF OF HAWKER HUNTER PROBLEM. THE THIRTY-ONE AIRCRAFT WILL BE GIVEN TO OMAN. KING HIMSELF WILL PROBABLY ATTEND AND PARTICIPATE IN PUBLIC FLY PAST AS PART OF A JORDANIAN GESTURE OF SUPPORT FOR SULTAN. THIS APPARENTLY ALL ARRANGED BY CHIEF OF STAFF BIN SHAKER AND AIR FORCE CHIEF ABOUD DURING VISIT TO LONDON LAST WEEK WHEN THEY MET WITH QABOOS.

2. KING ALSO SAID THAT BIN SHAKER WILL GO SHORTLY TO OMAN TO REVIEW IN FIELD WEAPONS, EQUIPMENT AND OTHER NEEDS OF JORDANIAN SPECIAL FORCES BATTALION. OMANIS HAVE APPARENTLY REAFFIRMED TO BIN SHAKER THEIR WILLINGNESS TO PAY FOR TROOPS AND AFTER BIN SHAKER VISIT, KING EXPECTS THINGS TO MOVE FAST. WE WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR INFORMATION ON WHETHER DEPARTMENT OR DOD WILL REQUIRE ANY ARRANGEMENTS WITH JORDAN ON TAKING U.S. WEAPONS WITH THEM, SINCE THIS IS NOT A TRANSFER TO OMAN, WE ASSUME NO ASSURANCES ARE REQUIRED, BUT WE WOULD LIKE TO BE SURE THERE WILL BE NO U.S. PROBLEM.

3. FINALLY, KING SAID THAT BECAUSE OF THIS JORDANIAN SECRET

SECRET

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GIFT, OMANIS HAD OFFERED TO PROVIDE SOMETIME IN THE

FUTURE FOR A GENEROUS GIFT OF FUNDS TO JORDANIAN AIR FORCE. THIS IS AT PRESENT UNDEFINED IN TIMING AND AMOUNT. HE STRESSED SENSITIVITY OF THIS LATTER QUESTION, PARTICULARLY AMONG HIS ARAB NEIGHBORS AND ASKED THAT WE KEEP THIS INFORMATION ESPECIALLY CLOSELY HELD. PICKERING

SECRET

NNN

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